



Obituary

Henry W. Horn, San Francisco.

Lieutenant Colonel Henry W. Horn, B. A. M. D. B. S., died in San Francisco March 5, 1920, at the age of 49 years.

He was the son of Thomas Horn, a California Pioneer and member of the Vigilance Committee, and Helen Wells Horn. He was born in San Francisco, and received his Bachelor's degree from the University of California where he was a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity. He graduated in medicine in 1897 from the Cooper Medical College and spent four years as Assistant Professor of Otology in the University of Bonn, Germany, from which he received the degree of Bachelor of Science. He studied speech defects in the Ambulatory Division in the University of Berlin for a year and spent another year in Vienna in clinical work and the study of the inner ear under Barany laying there the foundation of the work with which he was engaged while in military service.

As a physician he enjoyed a large practice and had risen to an enviable position in the eyes of the medical world through his untiring energy, as a teacher in the University of California Medical School and through his numerous contributions to medical literature which marked him as a man of independent thought in the world of research. Among his last efforts in this field were important contributions upon the subject of ozoena.

At the outbreak of the war and shortly after his marriage to Miss Ella Gardner of Los Angeles, he volunteered his service to the Government and entered the Medical Corps of the Army as lieutenant. He returned from France in 1919 and received his discharge from the Army after two years of meritorious service with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. Unfortunately, he contracted influenza during the epidemic at the end of 1918 in France from which time he never recovered his health and died about a year later.

To him, as well as to those who died upon field of honor, is due the honor given those who have sacrificed all for their country in its hour of need and his memory will live in the hearts of those who knew him and knew his work. He was a man who lived fearlessly, worked fearlessly, died fearlessly, and added more than his share to the sum of human effort.

The value of his work during the War is shown by the following tribute written by the Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Isaac H. Jones of the Medical Corp of the Army:

"The Air Service Medical, U. S. A., came to include over 1500 medical officers and more than thousands enlisted personnel. Lt. Col. H. W. Horn was one of the original five who organized this service and developed it from nothing into a larger organization than the entire medical corps before the War. To those who did not understand Aviation problems it was difficult to see the value of any such organization at all; Col. Horn devoted the last three years of his life entirely to these special studies and was one of the most enthusiastic believers in the need of medical experts to control the mental and physical fitness of fliers.

At the very beginning of the U. S. effort, he accepted the commission of Lieutenant, although we all know how many younger and less experienced men "held out for higher ranks." The aviation service scarcely even existed at that time; the hands of the finest youngsters in the country clamored to be admitted to a service that had not even an existence. Lt. Horn proceeded at once to San Francisco and organized a Physical Examining Unit, which was one of the first—eventually there were 67 such units. He aroused great interest in Aviation along the Pacific Coast—not only among applicants but in the Medical Profession and he was in that way responsible for bringing many medical men into the service.

He then was called to the Medical Research Laboratory at Mineola, Long Island, and his most valuable work there was the study of deafness in actual flight; this was the first work of the kind ever done and to this date there is no so comprehensive study in the world on this subject. He then went overseas as the head of the Otological Department of the Air Service Medical group. His report of otologic work overseas—"The Role of the Labyrinth in Flying Efficiency" (Annals of Otology, June, 1919) is the best and most conservative up-to-date exposition of this new subject.

The many hundred physicians who knew him were impressed with his unlimited capacity for hard work—he seemed tireless. It was this devotion to his work above all that caused him to be admired by the Medical Profession. He had almost ruthless disregard for "what sort of impression he would make"—it was this rugged manliness that endeared him so to his fellow workers.

Page 210

Deaths

YEMANS, HERBERT WM.—A graduate of Detroit Medical College 1878. Licensed in California 1887. Died in Fort Rosecrans, Cal., January 1920. Deceased was a major in the Marine Corps, U. S. A.

VAN NORMAN, WM. J.—A graduate of Cleveland College Homeo. Hospital, Ohio, 1898. Licensed in California 1900. Died in Los Angeles March 28, 1920.